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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 HA-05 IO-14 SSM-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 EUR-12 /086 W
----------118062 221719Z /46
O 221631Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1410
USIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2435

DEPT FOR NEA, USIA FOR INA, CAIRO FOR ATHERTON PARTY

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L)
SUBJ: ATHERTON'S REMARKS TO PRESS ON DEPARTURE FOR CAIRO,
FEB 22, 78, BEN GURION AIRPORT, 4 PM

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REMARKS TO PRESS BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE ATHERTON ON HIS DEPARTURE FOR CAIRO AT BEN GURION AIRPORT, WEDNESDAY FEB 22, 78 AT 4 PM ISRAELI TIME.

(I HAD) TALKS YESTERDAY WITH BOTH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND WITH THE PM AND I'M GOING TO HAVE TALKS IN CAIRO TOMORROW AND I'LL BE COMING BACK AFTER THAT TO CONTINUE THE PROCESS HERE. AS I SAID WHEN I ARRIVED, IT IS A PROCESS AND THE IMPORTANT THING IT SEEMS TO ME, IS THE CONTINUITY OF THAT PROCESS. I FIND HERE A VERY DEFINITE DETERMINATION TO KEEP THE PROCESS GOING AND TO CONTINUE TO SEEK TO MAKE PROGRESS. I CERTAINLY, ON BEHALF OF MY GOVERNMENT, SHARE THAT DETERMINATION, AND I EXPECT THAT I WILL FIND THE SAME DETERMINATION IN CAIRO.
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Q: MR ATHERTON IS THERE A POSSIBILITY THAT THERE MAY BE A FACE-TO-FACE MEETING BETWEEN THE ISRAELIS AND THE EGYPTIANS RATHER THAN THIS SHUTTLE EFFORT THAT HAS BEEN REPORTED. HAS THIS BEEN BROUGHT UP?

MR ATHERTON: WELL, I THINK IT'S PROBABLY PREMATURE TO TALK

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ABOUT WHEN THE - IF YOU'RE REFERRING TO THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE - WHEN THIS MIGHT RESUME ITS FORMAL MEETINGS, BUT THE WORK THAT I'M ENGAGED IN TO TRY TO COMPLETE THE DEC-LARATION OF PRINCIPLES, IS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE AND IN THE CONTEXT OF LOOKING FOR A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES THAT WOULD GOVERN A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. THE QUESTION OF RESUMPTION OF MORE DIRECT TALKS IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE IS ALWAYS THERE FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION. I DONT THINK ANYONE RAISES AN ISSUE OF WHETHER OR NOT THIS WILL HAPPEN AT SOME POINT. ITS SIMPLY A CASE OF WHEN WE WILL GET AGAIN TO THAT POINT.

Q: MY REFERENCE WAS NOT TO THAT BUT TO A REPORT THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD PREFER EVEN TO WORK ON THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND THAT THEY TOLD YOU THIS ON A FACE-TO-FACE BASIS. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT?

ATHERTON: I AM AFRIAD THAT IM GOING TO HAVE TO STAY WITH WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING SINCE I ARRIVED, THAT I SIMPLY DONT WANT TO GET INTO ANY OF THE SPECIFICS OF THE DISCUSSIONS. I HAVENT REALLY ANYTHING OF A SPECIFIC NATURE THAT I COULD ADD TO WHAT I SAID AFTER THE MEETING YESTERDAY. I HAVENT HAD ANY FURTHER MEETINGS SINCE MY MEETING WITH THE PM AND THIS IS GOING TO BE GOING ON, ON A CONTINUING BASIS FOR SOME DAYS AND PERHAPS WEEKS AND ITS SIMPLY NOT POSSIBLE TO TRY TO GIVE, AS WE SAY, A TEMPERATURE READING AFTER EACH UNCLASSIFIED

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INDIVIDUAL MEETING.

Q: WHEN WILL WE GREET YOU AGAIN HERE, SIR?

ATHERTON: I EXPECT TO BE BACK OVER THE WEEKEND AND WHEN WE GET A MORE PRECISE ARRIVAL TIME, ILL MAKE SURE THAT ITS KNOWN. I DONT KNOW WHETHER YOU'LL FIND IT WORTHWHILE TO CONTINUE TO COME OUT EVERY TIME I APPEAR, BECAUSE ITS NOT GOING TO BE POSSIBLE OBVIOUSLY TO HAVE DRAMATIC EVENTS AFTER EVERY TALK. THIS IS AN ON-GOING PROCESS AND ITS GOING TO HAVE TO GO ON FOR SOME TIME.

Q: MR ATHERTON, AS YOU ARE PROBABLY AWARE, THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF SYRIA SAID IN AN INTERVIEW TO EITHER A KUWAITI OR JORDANIAN PAPER THAT JORDAN PLEDGED TO SYRIA THAT IT WILL NOT JOIN THE TALKS. WHERE DO YOU THINK THAT PUTS US?

ATHERTON: I SAW THAT REPORT, BUT I SIMPLY HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING THE ACCURACY OR THE INACCURACY OF IT. I WILL AT SOME POINT EXPECT TO BE VISITING JORDAN DURING THIS MISSION, AND I WOULD REALLY PREFER TO NOT COMMENT ON PRESS REPORTS OF THAT KIND. I WOULD PREFER TO RELY ON OUR OWN DIRECT CONTACTS WITH

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THE PARTIES. IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, IM GOING TO BE LATE GETTING
TO CAIRO IF I DONT GET ON THE AIRPLANE. THANKS VERY MUCH.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV02435
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780082-0423
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780225/aaaaavhj.tel
Line Count: 119
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a4799ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATHERTON\'S REMARKS TO PRESS ON DEPARTURE FOR CAIRO, FEB 22, 78, BEN GURION AIRPORT, 4 PM FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REMARKS TO PRESS BY ASSISTANT
TAGS: OVIP, (ATHERTON, ALFRED L)
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a4799ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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